

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

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R 121057Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5207

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK

SUBJ: CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOP AND GOVERNMENT  
OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SUMMARY: GOP ANNOUNCED JUNE 10 FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN  
INTERNAL POLITICAL SETUP IN AZAD KASHMIR AND CREATION  
OF NEW JOINT PAKISTAN-AZAD KASHMIR COUNCIL. CHANGES  
APPEAR DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT GIVING PEOPLES' PARTY  
OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN CONTROL OF AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY AND  
EXECUTIVE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS THIS FALL. NEW JOINT  
COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE GOP GREATER INFLUENCE AND CONTROL  
OVER OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY IN KASHMIR.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE JUNE 10, LAW AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER PIRZADA ANNOUNCED MEASURES  
TO ENHANCE COORDINATION BCWEEN THE GOP AND THE AZAD  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT (GAJKL) AND TO BRING POLITICAL  
STRUCTURE OF LATTER INTO HARMONY WITH THAT ESTABLISHED  
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IN PAKISTAN BY AUGUST 1973 CONSTITUTION. MINISTER PIRZADA

APPEARED WITH GAIK PRESIDENT QAYYUM, LEADERS OF FIVE OTHER KASHMIR POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INFORMATION YUSUF BUCH.

2. PIRZADA EMPHASIZED THAT CHANGES AGREED UPON BY KASHMIRI LEADERS AND GOP WOULD NOT PREJUDICE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF KASHMIRIS NOR UN RESOLUTIONS ON KASHMIR DISPUTE. PIRZADA WAS ALSO CAREFUL TO STATE THAT CHANGES WILL NOT MAKE KASHMIR A PROVINCE OF FEDERAL PAKISTAN. MAJOR NEW INNOVATION IS CREAT ON OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR COUNCIL HEAJKD BY PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN AND VFMPOSED OF SEVEN MEMBERS ELECTED BY AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY PLUS FIVE NOMINATED BY PRIME MINSTER FROM PAKISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR FROM PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET. COUNCIL WOULD BE GOVERNING BODY ON ALL SUB-JECTS NOT RESERVED TO GOP UNDER UNRFP RESOLUTIONS NOR RESERVED TO AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY. COUNCIL DECISIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY SECRETARIAT UNDER SUPERVISION OF PAKISTAN MINISTER AND TWO SPECCL ASSISTANTS CHOSEN FROM AMONG ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS.

3. SECOND MODIFICATION CONCERNS INTERNAL GAIK POLITICAL STRUCTURES. PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO REPLACE EXISTING PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT WILLHAVE CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND WILL BE ELECTED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ASSEMBLY. PRIME MINISTER WILL BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND WILL BE ELECTED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLY ITSELF WILL BE INCREASED FROM CURRENT TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS TO FTETH-TWO (INCLUDING TWO SEATS RESERVED FOR WOMEN CHOSEN BY ASSEMBLY).

4. ABOVE CHANGES REQUIRE APPROVAL BY AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY. PIRZADA INDICATED THAT GOP HOPED SUCH APPROVAL WOULD TAKE PLACE WELL BEFORE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS IN AZAD KASHMIR, WHICH HE SAID WILL BE SCHEDULED BEFORE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC POWERS NEWLY CREATED COUNCIL WILL ENJOY. UNCIP RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO BY PIRZADA RELATEDTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEASEFIRE AND CONDUCT OF PLEBESCITE RATHER THAN TO MATTERS SUCH AS DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CURRENCY, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN. OUR INITIAL READING IS THAT COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE MECHANISM FOR DIRECT ISLAMABAD INTERVENTION IN VARIETY OF SUBJECTS HERETOFORE SUBJECT TO VETO BY AZAD KASHMIR PRESIDENT. IN RECENT MONTHS PRESIDENT QAYYUM HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, OBJECTED TO ISLAMABAD NOMINATIONS OF

NEW CHIEF SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.  
PRESUMABLY COUNCIL WILL ENABLE GOP TO REDUCE SCOPE OF  
INDEPENDENT ACTION BY GAJK.

6. CHANGES WITHIN AZAD KASHMIR APPEAR LARGELY  
MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. BHUTTO HAS  
SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO UNSEAT QAYYUM GOVERNMENT AND  
INSTALL PEOPLES' PARTY (PPP) REGIME IN ITS PLACE.  
WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL, IT  
APPEARS AT THIS POINT THAT PRESIDENT QAYYUM WOULD  
STAND GOOD CHANCE OF RE-ELECTION IN DIRECT BALLOT FOR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE. INDIRECT ELECTION OF NEWLY CREATED  
POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER AFFORDS PPP BETTER CHANCE TO  
UNSEAT QAYYUM AND HIS MUSLIM CONFERENCE AND SELABT  
PRIME MINISTER MORE AMENABLE TO GOP CONTROL. THIRTEEN  
OF FORTY SEATS IN ASSEMBLY TO BE CHOSEN BY DIRECT  
ELECTION ARE RESERVED FOR KASHMIRIS LIVING IN PAKISTAN,  
MOST OF WHOM WILL PROBABLY VOTE (OR HAVE THEIR VOTES  
RECORDED) FOR PPP CANDIDATES. ASSUMING THAT REMAINING  
27 SEATS WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG FOUR PRINCIPAL POLITICAL  
PARTIES, PPP WILL BE INEXCELLENT POSITION TO FORM COALITION  
MINISTRY.

7. DURING TELEVISION PRESENTATION, PRESIDENT QAYYUM  
WAS GRIM, SUGGESTING THAT HE MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY  
ABOUT THESE PROPOSED CHANGES AT LATER EOTE. WE SURMISE  
THAT CHANGES PROBABLY ARE HANDIWORK OF SPECIAL ADVISOR  
BUCH, REFUGEE FROM KASHMIR VALLEY AND ONE OF NUMBER OF  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEKING TO EXERT SPECIAL  
INFLUENCE OVER AZAD KASHMIR AFFAIRS. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.  
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